

**CLARK COUNTY**

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE  
FUND**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011**





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# Veterans Assistance Fund

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The Clark County Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) provides assistance to indigent veterans and their families. The use of the fund was developed in accordance with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 73.08 and Clark County Ordinance Title 2 Administration and Personnel Chapter 2.29 Veterans Relief.

Washington State law established the Veterans Assistance Fund as a source of property tax dollars to be utilized for the needs of indigent veterans and their families. A portion of property tax collected in Clark County is earmarked for the VAF.

Contracting for the use of the VAF is the responsibility of Clark County through the Department of Community Services with advice from the Veterans Resource Committee. The Clark County Board of Commissioners has statutory oversight for the use and expenditures of the fund.

The County, with the assistance from the Veterans Resource Committee, selects contract agencies through the County's procurement process once every three years. The County is responsible for all contracts, invoices, monitoring and reporting for these funds.

Direct emergency assistance is currently provided to veterans with this fund by Columbia River Mental Health, the contractor selected through a Request for Proposal process in 2010.

Veterans must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive assistance through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Assistance is provided without discrimination and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances.

The Veterans Assistance Fund is currently used to provide the following emergency relief to qualified Veterans:

- Rent Assistance
- Heating and Utilities
- Food Assistance
- Transportation
- Prescription Coverage
- Burial Assistance
- Clothing, Tools and Licensing
- Auto Repair
- Eye Care
- Dental Care
- Referral Services

# Veterans Resource Committee

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The primary purpose of the Veterans Resource Committee (VRC) is to serve as an advisory board on veterans needs, and develop programs or procedures for the welfare of indigent and suffering veterans. The VRC also promotes awareness of these issues throughout the Clark County veteran's community and provides policy guidance and advice to the Clark County Veterans Case Manager when necessary.

The committee meets monthly and consists of nationally recognized veterans organizations in Clark County and veterans from the community at large. The majority of the members must be representatives from service organizations; however veterans may join as a Member-At-Large if voted in by the committee.

The Executive Committee for 2011 was comprised of Morris Giesler – Chair, Robert Nichols – Vice-Chair and Michael Gibson – Secretary. Executive members may be re-elected to their position for two consecutive years.

Active members of the Veterans Resource Committee in 2011 included:

## **POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #27  
American Legion #44  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Legion #208  
American Vets #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #7824  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

## **PRIMARY**

Morris Giesler  
Jerry Keese  
Elisa Cotton  
Darren Wertz  
Robert Nichols  
Michael Gibson  
George Hunt  
Richard Alvarez  
Bruce Maas  
Lou Baste  
Roy Billings  
Ray Saranto  
Greg Whitson

## **SECONDARY**

Jan Wojciechowski  
Peggy Sheehan  
Rodney Stallard  
Bo Russell  
Mark Woods  
Philip Yasson  
Robert Blevens  
Richard Gabriel  
Michael Riley  
Ron Brandon  
Richard Alvarez  
Skip Benge  
Jerry Keen

## **Members at Large**

Thomas Dombeck  
Kevin Lawson  
Emily Stoutsenberger

## Services Provided - CRMHS

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Columbia River Mental Health Services (CRMHS) has been under contract since 2010 to provide a Veterans Case Management Officer. This person interviews veterans, determines their level of need and assists them with funding for emergency relief through the Veterans Assistance Fund. They provide a variety of emergency services to veterans that meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible for service, a veteran must:

- have an honorable discharge status,
- have a household income not exceeding 150% of the annual federal poverty limit, and
- provide proof of current residency in Clark County and proof of residency in Washington State for the previous 12 consecutive months

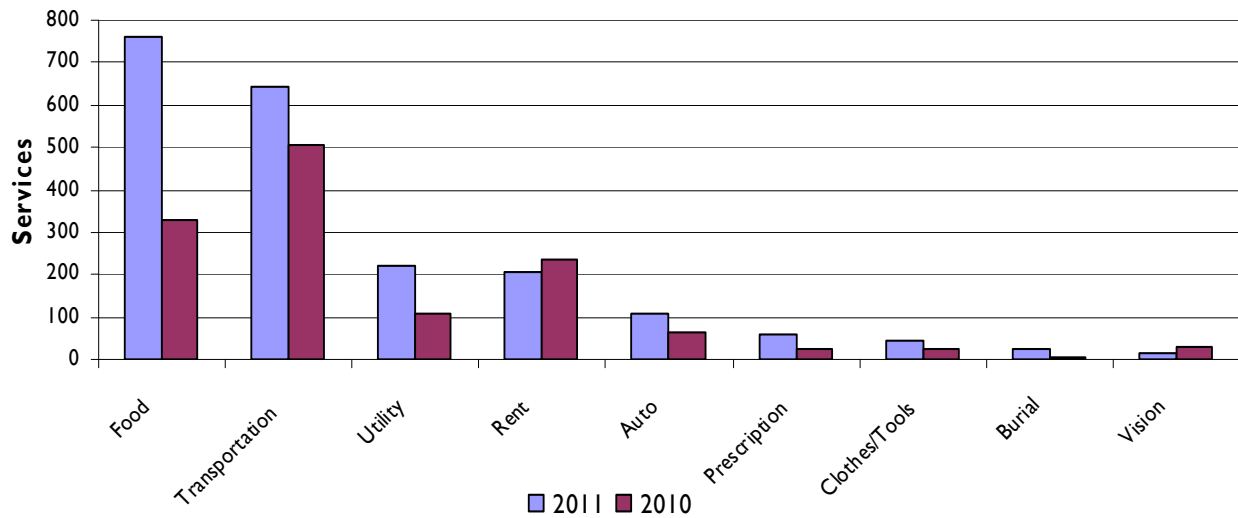
A copy of the Policies and Procedures that govern the funding and services available along with an application for assistance is online at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans/>

Columbia River Mental Health operates the Veterans Assistance Program on the first floor at the Center for Community Health Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. In 2011, the Veterans Assistance Fund funded CRMHS with 526,685.94. Of this, \$393,421.89 went directly to veterans.

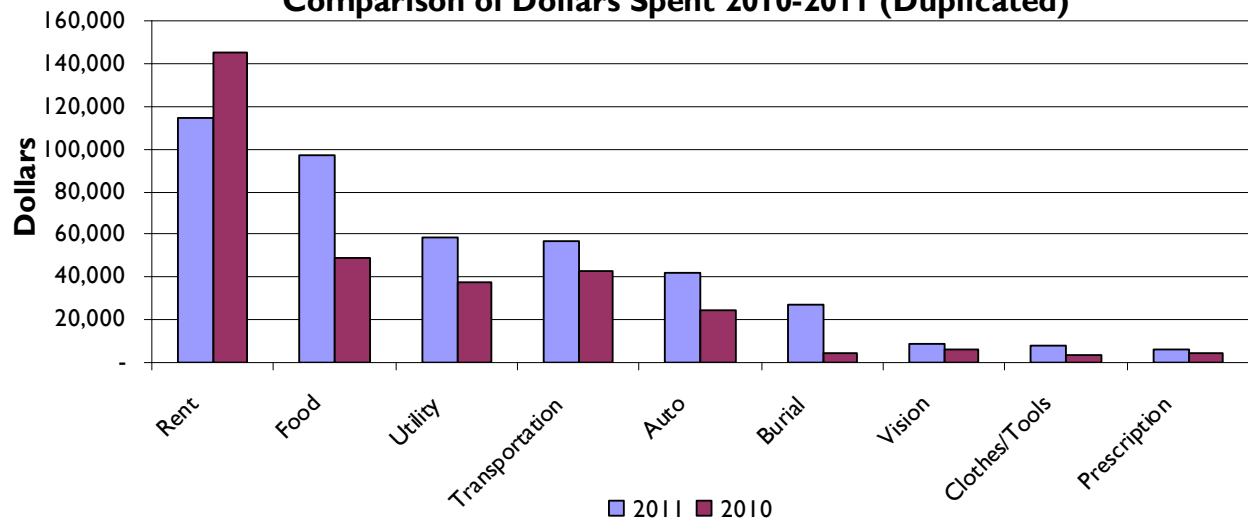


## Services Provided – CRMHS - continued

**Comparison of Services Provided 2010-2011 (Duplicated)**



**Comparison of Dollars Spent 2010-2011 (Duplicated)**



## Services Provided – CRMHS - continued

January		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$4,855.09	14
Burial	916.05	1
Clothes/Tools	250.86	2
Food	9,056.77	62
Prescription	852.32	5
Rent	13,948.41	23
Transportation	4,845.00	55
Utility	1,373.42	6
Vision	242.00	1
	<b>\$37,598.92</b>	<b>183</b>

February		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$2,673.70	8
Burial	1,393.45	1
Clothes/Tools	340.00	2
Food	8,214.22	58
Prescription	1,236.39	7
Rent	10,912.73	20
Transportation	5,052.00	59
Utility	2,685.58	16
Vision	1,656.93	7
	<b>\$35,027.00</b>	<b>187</b>

March		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$3,985.66	10
Burial	2,045.00	2
Clothes/Tools	289.91	2
Food	6,500.33	60
Prescription	1,367.45	10
Rent	7,813.15	17
Transportation	4,803.00	54
Utility	2,628.07	13
Vision	1,772.33	8
	<b>\$32,400.90</b>	<b>183</b>

April		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$4,750.05	12
Burial	3,467.38	3
Clothes/Tools	810.29	4
Food	7,851.03	74
Prescription	371.00	3
Rent	7,925.58	15
Transportation	6,187.00	69
Utility	4,496.74	16
Vision	885.00	4
	<b>\$38,266.07</b>	<b>208</b>

May		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$4,819.56	12
Burial	-	0
Clothes/Tools	1,391.50	7
Food	6,007.89	54
Prescription	659.57	5
Rent	10,140.00	18
Transportation	5,131.00	60
Utility	5,825.18	21
Vision	677.95	3
	<b>\$34,652.65</b>	<b>180</b>

June		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$1,250.00	4
Burial	2,538.78	3
Clothes/Tools	1,304.55	7
Food	5,129.70	47
Prescription	306.62	5
Rent	8,837.00	17
Transportation	3,292.00	40
Utility	6,105.71	21
Vision	250.00	1
	<b>\$29,014.36</b>	<b>145</b>



## Services Provided – CRMHS - continued

July		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$2,542.31	6
Burial	2,539.10	2
Clothes/Tools	487.82	4
Food	8,289.12	70
Prescription	118.13	2
Rent	5,459.10	11
Transportation	4,643.00	56
Utility	4,908.40	20
Vision	249.99	1
	<b>\$29,236.97</b>	<b>172</b>

August		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$2,165.88	5
Burial	4,170.10	3
Clothes/Tools	340.00	2
Food	6,847.20	51
Prescription	357.26	4
Rent	8,291.29	16
Transportation	1,936.00	20
Utility	5,408.88	20
Vision	-	0
	<b>\$29,516.61</b>	<b>121</b>

September		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$2,841.03	7
Burial	5,065.90	5
Clothes/Tools	250.00	1
Food	7,424.56	59
Prescription	361.89	5
Rent	10,274.80	16
Transportation	7,684.00	80
Utility	4,592.98	20
Vision	696.00	3
	<b>\$39,191.16</b>	<b>196</b>

October		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$5,542.35	13
Burial	2,601.90	2
Clothes/Tools	630.89	4
Food	5,946.63	50
Prescription	367.24	4
Rent	10,677.93	17
Transportation	4,100.00	49
Utility	11,959.18	35
Vision	1,208.95	5
	<b>\$43,035.07</b>	<b>179</b>

November		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$3,182.10	8
Burial	2,594.10	2
Clothes/Tools	675.98	4
Food	7,539.55	58
Prescription	472.81	8
Rent	9,404.08	17
Transportation	4,152.00	47
Utility	7,910.69	27
Vision	-	0
	<b>\$35,931.31</b>	<b>171</b>

December		
	Amount	# of Services
Auto	\$3,777.63	11
Burial	-	0
Clothes/Tools	1,070.40	5
Food	18,087.85	119
Prescription	56.00	1
Rent	10,603.02	19
Transportation	5,046.00	54
Utility	610.84	6
Vision	898.76	5
	<b>\$40,150.50</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Services Provided – VAC**

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The Veterans Assistance Center opened in May 2011; the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) has served hundreds of veterans in our community. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., five days a week and is staffed entirely by volunteers. The Veterans Assistance Fund pays rent for the Center on Columbia Street through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Community Services. The Memorandum provided the Center with a total of \$20,880.23 in 2011.

Volunteers help veterans transitioning back into the community with employment, physical and mental health issues, homelessness, family issues, Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and other referrals. Service Officers from DAV Chapter 4 volunteer to assist veterans in completing required forms for filing claims through the federal VA.

This year, the CCVAC coordinated the Veterans Stand Down and “Hunting with America’s Heroes” - a 3-day all-expense paid trip for 30 veterans to Maupin, Oregon for a guided hunting and fishing trip.

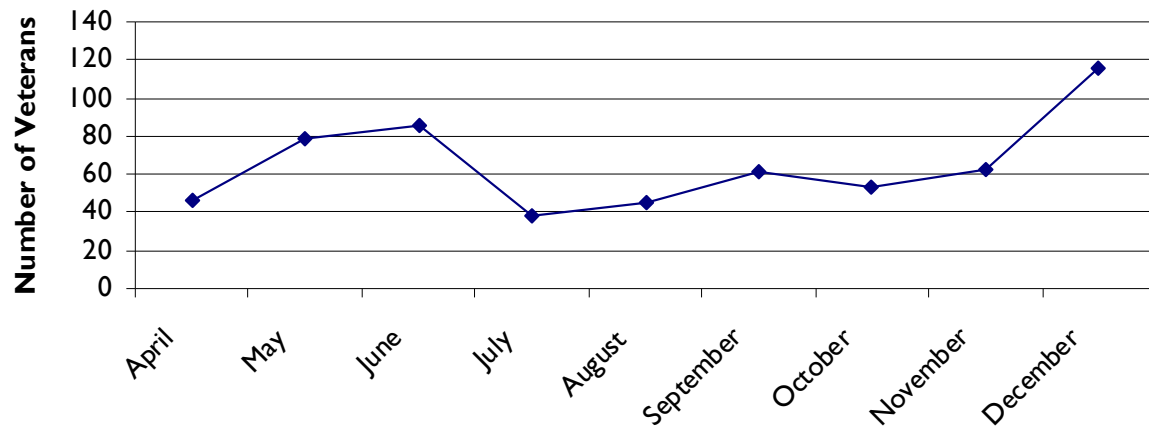
### **Veterans Assistance Center Volunteer Hours 2011**

	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Value of Hours*</b>
April	691	\$14,760.00
May	854	18,246.78
June	819	17,483.16
July	617	13,179.12
August	688	14,695.68
September	776	16,579.63
October	833	17,792.88
November	538	11,500.00
December	627	13,392.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,443</b>	<b>\$137,629.97</b>

\*Based on the independent sector value of volunteer labor at \$21.36/hour.

## **Services Provided – VAC – continued**

### **Veterans Served by Veterans Assistance Center**



## **Services Provided – Free Clinic Dental**

Clark County contracts with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington to provide two seven-hour clinics per month for low-income veterans. Veterans receive urgent dental care only, as recommended by the Clinic, and cannot be provided specialty care and/or cosmetic dental procedures. Patients are referred through the Veterans Case Management Officer and must meet the eligibility requirements for the Veterans Assistance Fund. The Clinic has the capacity to provide care for up to 12 patients per clinic (24 patients/month).

Four dentists volunteer four hours per month  
Four dental assistants volunteer four hours per month  
Two clerks volunteer eight hours per month

If the Clinic is unsuccessful in recruiting volunteer dentists, a contract dentist is hired to provide services.

### **Number Served and Costs of Dental Services by Month 2011**

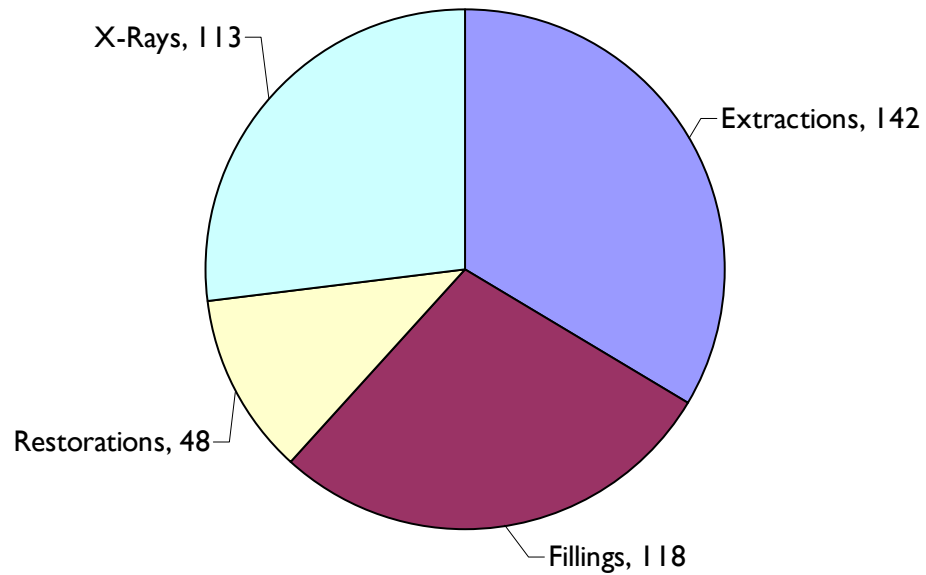
	<b>Veterans Served</b>	<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>Value of Services</b>	<b>Actual Billed to VAF</b>	<b>Percent of Total Cost*</b>
January	14	69	\$4,725.00	\$1,259.00	27%
February	9	48	5,407.50	862.00	16
March	7	35	4,117.50	1,196.00	29
April	8	54	6,705.00	1,522.00	23
May	3	12	2,617.50	1,049.00	40
June	3	12	2,190.00	872.45	40
July	4	11	2,767.50	864.00	31
August	7	23	2,812.50	1,105.73	39
September	15	55	4,987.50	938.77	19
October	13	39	5,280.00	1,124.80	21
November	13	48	6,750.00	844.33	13
December	9	15	1,560.00	903.00	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$4,9920.00</b>	<b>\$12,541.08</b>	<b>25%</b>

\*The Percent of Total Cost is the percent of the Actual Billed amount compared to the Value of Services for each month.

Each veteran received an average of four dental services.

## Services Provided - Free Clinic Dental - continued

**2011 Dental Services**



## 2011 Veterans Stand Down

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The annual Stand Down event was held on September 26, 2011 at the Elk's Club. **There were 159 veterans in attendance** who received information and services related to VA benefits, housing, dental, transportation, employment and medical. Immediate assistance included hot meals, showers, haircuts, clothes and hygiene items. Health-related services include diabetes testing, flu shots, and health and dental screenings. This year, the Veterans Assistance Fund helped the Stand Down with a total of \$3,529.44. Some of these funds paid for storage for a large shipment from the Department of Defense that included clothes, backpacks and other supplies for veterans that will be given out throughout the year and at next year's Stand Down.

Services Used	People Served
Partners in Careers	103
Council for the Homeless	82
VA Community Reintegration	77
VA Nurses Station	64
Clark County Veterans Assistance	34
DSHS Senior Aging & Disability	23
Vancouver Housing Authority	22



## **Funding and Demand for Services**

The Veterans Assistance Fund receives funding through the County's property taxes. Although the annual amount fluctuates depending on the amount of property taxes collected, the average allocation over the last three years has been \$350,000 per year.

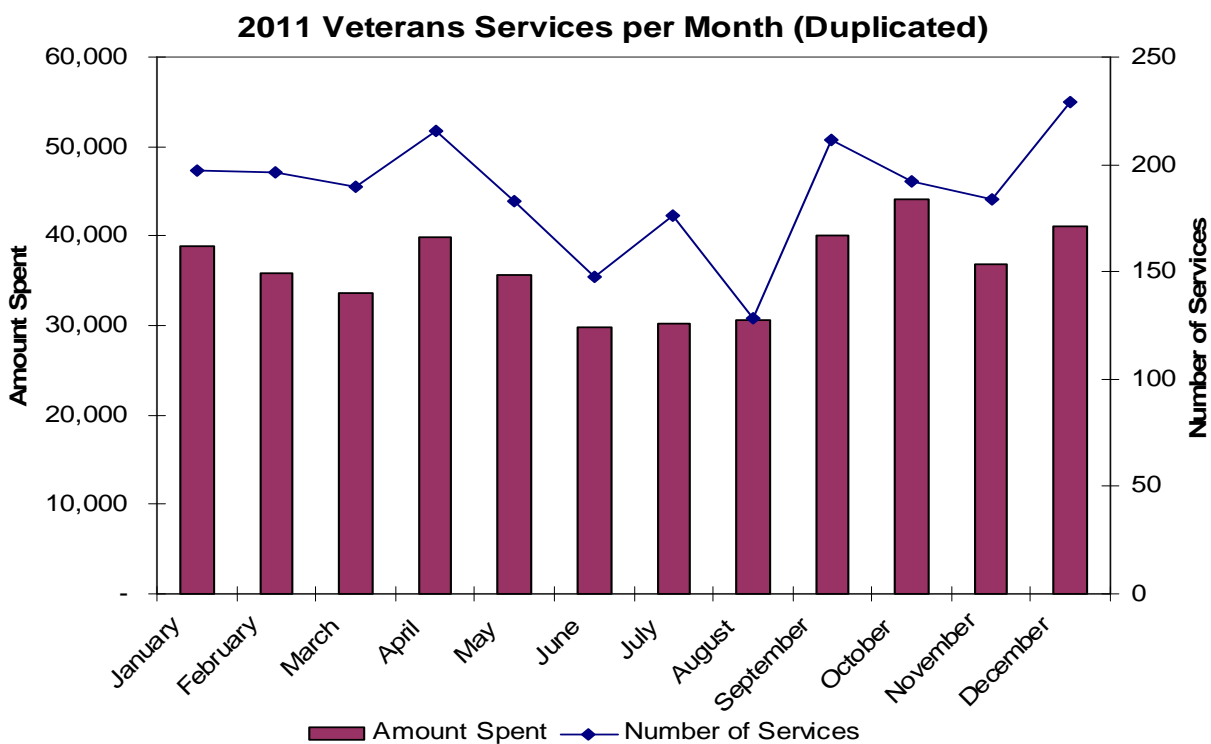
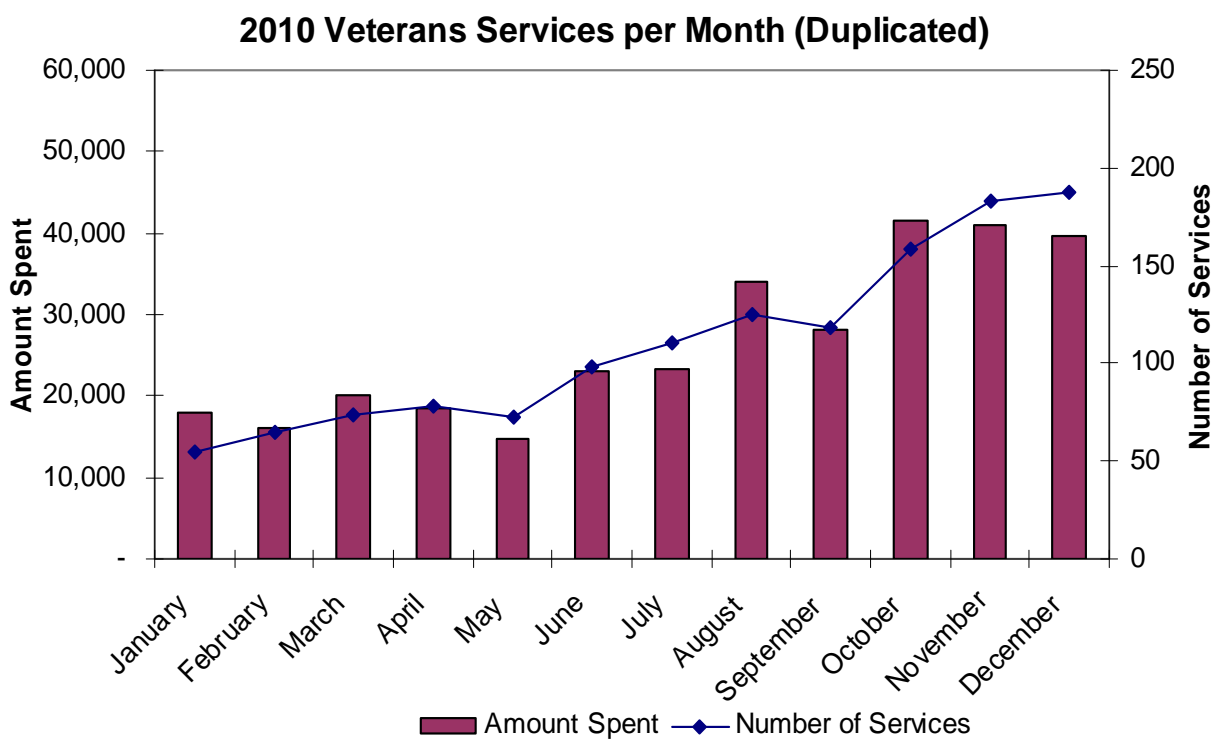
Clark County has seen an increasing need for safety net services in the veterans community over the past year. Like many citizens in the county, veterans are facing reduced work hours or unemployment. Throughout 2010, the number of veterans in need of services consistently grew, and that number stayed elevated throughout 2011 as shown on the following charts.

In 2011, there was an increase of 218% in the number of duplicated veterans served by the Assistance Fund (1,324 veterans in 2010 vs. 2,895 veterans in 2011). Of course, the increased number served also resulted in an increase in expenditures of 66% (\$317,626 in 2010 vs. \$483,195 in 2011).

Two new programs have been proposed and accepted by the Veterans Resource Committee for 2012 VAF funding, a diversion and housing program and an employment program for women veterans

The Veterans Resource Committee expects to see a continued increase of veterans in need of assistance due to the high unemployment and the complete drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Funding and Demand for Services - continued





# Revenue and Expense Report

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## Veteran's Assistance Fund – Fund 1019

	<u>Total</u>
<b>Fund Balance as of January 1, 2011</b>	<b>\$949,841.41</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>	
Tax Revenues	351,851.58
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,580.00
Interest and F M Adjustment	4,284.43
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$357,716.01</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Salaries:	
Program Staff	37,198.43
Finance	6,922.53
Contracts	3,686.87
Operating Expenses	22,333.63
Columbia River Mental Health Services	526,685.94
SW Washington Free Clinic Dental	12,283.08
Veterans Assistance Center	20,880.23
Veterans Stand Down	3,529.44
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$633,520.15</b>
Net Increase / (Decrease)	(275,804.14)
<b>Fund Balance as of December 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$674,037.27</b>

## **Looking Ahead – 2012**

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Recognizing that the Veterans Assistance Fund is meant as an emergency relief fund, the policies for repeat users of the fund have been tightened up. Food assistance has also been limited based on the number of people in a household.

The Veterans Resource Committee also plans to petition for an increase in the property tax levy that is allocated to the Veterans Assistance Fund in the future.

With the increased demand for services, and the limited budget available, the Veterans Resource Committee strives to select efficient programs and control costs while also meeting the needs of the veteran's community. In 2011, the Veterans Resource Committee approved funding for two new case management programs that begin in 2012, a women veteran employment program and a jail re-entry program.

### **Veterans Women Program**

The Veterans Women Program, which will assist up to 60 women veterans by providing education, training and mentoring which result in employment-related outcomes. Participants will be assessed for employment readiness and develop a plan with goals for workforce reentry. A Job Coach will remain with the veteran for up to six months following job placement. All clients receive case management, job coaching and pre-employment services. Outcomes for this program include 25 individuals placed in unsubsidized employment and 15 individuals will retain unsubsidized employment over 90 days

### **Veterans Incarceration Project**

The Veterans Incarceration Project (VIP) works in partnership with the Veterans Therapeutic Court, helping up to 75 veterans incarcerated in Clark County jail. VIP advocates for reduction in sentencing for veterans eligible and willing to participate in treatment and/or employment oriented veterans' programs. Due to the reduction in number of jail days served in 2011, the VIP program saved Clark County \$422,884 based on the jail cost per day. The Veterans Benefits Specialist qualifies veterans and facilitates entry into agreed upon programs. The Specialist also coordinates housing, employment, and support services as needed. VIP participants may spend three to six months in the program. Outcomes include housing for 30 veterans, job placement for 15 veterans and getting 12 veterans admitted to the VA for treatment, with a goal of a recidivism rate of 15 percent or less for VIP participants.

## Contact Information

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### Clark County Staff

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### Columbia River Mental Health – Contracted Case Manager

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### Veterans Resource Committee 2012 Chairperson

Robert Nichols, Chair  
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